



AGAWAM

ADVERTISER NEWS

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Sapelli declares run for mayoral re-election

By Shelby Macri
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AGAWAM – Mayor William Sapelli hosted a re-election campaign kickoff event at Oak Ridge Golf Club, where Sapelli spoke to his supporters about continuing the good work he has done for the past four years.

Sapelli said it's been a good four years and he'd like continue all the good things and projects that come along with it.

"We made great progress on our infrastructure with the streets, replacement of waterlines, sidewalks, a lot of the intersections we've done, the bridge project, we've got a lot accomplished," Sapelli said. "One of the biggest things is that we worked collaboratively with the city council and



PHOTO BY SHELBY MACRI

Mayor William Sapelli launched his re-election campaign last Thursday night. Sapelli is running for his third term in office.

SAPELLI | page 9

Council to seek special legislation

By Gregory A. Scibelli
gscibelli@turley.com

AGAWAM – In a very close vote, the Agawam City Council voted last Monday night in favor of allowing Community Preservation Act funds to be used by seniors on fixed income as well as other families in low-income situations.

The next step will be to petition State Rep. Nicholas Boldyga and State Sen. John Velis to enact special legislation allowing housing funds in the CPA to be used for the income-deficient population.

The proposal was made by Councilor George Bitzas back in early June, and was tabled for the past two months. Councilors Anthony Suffriti and Dino Mercadante signed on as co-sponsors.

Bitzas' proposal stated there is \$883,360.16 in just the afford-

able housing account of the CPA funds. There is more than \$3.7 million total in unused CPA funds, though some was recently appropriated for the Captain Charles Leonard House.

Money that is used in the affordable housing category is typically to build affordable housing for resident. Agawam has a major deficiency in affordable housing and has for many years. A housing advisory committee was established several years ago to study and come up with proposals to improve the affordable housing stock.

The resolution, however, is seeking to help those already living in town who cannot afford to make needed repairs to their homes.

Taxpayers have been paying into the CPA fund for the past 20 years, and with price increases

COUNCIL | page 9

Town nurse wants more to get vaccinated

By Gregory A. Scibelli
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AGAWAM – With the school year fast approaching and the emergence and the uptick in case counts due to the Delta Variant of the coronavirus.

According to Agawam Public Health Nurse Sherry Petrucci, more than half of the town is fully vaccinated in statistics released last week.

However, Hampden County has the lowest vaccination rate in the state, with only about 50 percent fully vaccinated. A lot of that is due to a substantially low vaccination rate in neighboring Springfield, the largest city in the county.

"Agawam is slightly above the county vaccination rate," said Petrucci. "We are doing well, but can do better."

Petrucci did not have the specific number of people in town that have been vaccinated, but there is a strong percentage of the older population that is fully vaccinated. Early in the vaccination process, Agawam did have rolling clinics go through many of the retirement and long-term nursing facilities.

Current numbers show that residents 70 percent of residents age 75 and older are fully vaccinated. About 79 percent of residents age 65-74 are fully vaccinated, and 66 percent of residents age 50-64 are fully vaccinated.

The Pfizer vaccine is available for teenagers age 12 to 15, and 31 percent of that population in town is vaccinated and Petrucci is encouraging parents to get more

VACCINATED | page 9

Summer Fest Concert



PHOTO BY SHELBY MACRI

Nicole and Steve Teixeira hang out with Topsy at the Summer Fest Concert. Please see more photos on page 6.



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Women to Watch holding luncheon Aug. 26

AGAWAM – The Nonprofit Women to Watch USA Western Mass Chapter based in Agawam will be holding a in person luncheon at 141 Main St Deli in Agawam on Aug. 26 from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. The public is invited to attend.

The luncheon will feature guest speaker Ruby Maddox. Maddox is a purpose coach, strategic consultant and facilitator. Maddox is dedicated to helping

individuals cultivate their potential for meaningful contributions to society. She has spent more than 15 years working in the field of nonprofit and philanthropy. Maddox is the co-founder of two nonprofit organizations focused on social justice, leadership and equity. She is a TEDx speaker and a recipient of the 40-under-40 Business and community Leader's award.

The luncheon will also hold a drawing for the WTW scholarship fund, along with plenty of good food and networking with other area business men and women.

The cost for Women to Watch USA members is \$25.00 and \$30 for non-members. You can sign up at www.Eventbrite.com or on the website at www.women2watchusawestma.com.

If you are interested in joining and be-

coming a member of Women to Watch USA, or are interested in a position on the Board of Directors and serving as a chairman for a committee please visit the website at: www.women2watchusawestma.com you can also contact membership chairman Deb Shelton at dshelton@finckandperras.com for further info, or find Women to Watch USA Western Mass Chapter on Facebook or Instagram.

COVID-19 testing at HCC extended through October

HOLYOKE — Free “Stop the Spread” COVID-19 testing at Holyoke Community College has been extended through October 2021, according to the Holyoke Board of Health.

Drive-through testing at HCC is conducted six days a week in Parking Lot M by the Bartley Center for Athletics & Recreation on the opposite side of HCC campus on Homestead Avenue.

HCC has been serving as a “Stop the Spread” drive-through testing site since August 2020 to help reduce the spread of COVID-19.

Drivers are asked to enter the campus from Homestead Avenue, turn right onto the Campus Road and proceed to parking lot. There are signs and parking attendants on site to help guide traffic.

The HCC testing site is open Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday from 7 a.m. to 11 a.m.; and Tuesday and Thursday

from 2 to 7 p.m.

Testing is free to all Massachusetts residents and conducted on a first-come, first-serve basis. There are no appointments and no referral is necessary. Turnaround time for results is typically four days or fewer.

Testing may sometimes be cancelled due to inclement weather. Be sure to visit the Holyoke Board of Health website for up-to-date information on cancellations:

<https://www.holyoke.org/departments/board-of-health>.



Community Outreach Team to host social media program

REGION – On Thursday, Sept. 2 from 6:30 to 7:45 p.m., Hampden District Attorney Anthony Gulluni's Community Outreach Unit will be hosting a Social Media Awareness Presentation via Zoom. Please see the attached flyer for registration information.

The Social Media Awareness Presentation provides an overview of: popular social media applications used by youth, safe and risky use of those applications, how

predators can present themselves online, and how parents can manage/monitor social media activity and encourage safe use.

The presentation will also include members of District Attorney Anthony Gulluni's Youth Advisory Board as panelists to answer parent/guardian questions and to offer their knowledge, experience, and advice.

Registration is open to anyone who wishes to participate.

Six Flags hiring for FrightFest

AGAWAM -- Six Flags New England, the Scare Capital of New England is seeking hundreds of positions as the park launches its annual Fright Fest*. This year's Fright Fest lineup is scaring than ever, with over 20 haunt experiences and live shows featuring over 200 roaming Monsters, Zombies and



Ghouls. Fright Fest kicks off on Saturday, September 25 and runs weekends and select days throughout Sunday, Oct. 31.

Six Flags New England will be hosting its annual hiring Scare Fair on Saturday, Aug. 7 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the park's Human Resources Building. The property will be adding hundreds of positions including Food Service, Security, Lifeguards, Rides, Games and of course it's terrifying squad of Zombies and Ghouls.

The Scare Capital of New England is thrilled to offer its monsters and employees a sensational Fall Bonus incentive throughout Sept. 27 to Oct. 31. Team Members can earn an additional bonus of up to 15% of their gross pay when they stay through the end of Fright Fest. The sooner you start, the bigger the bonus. The park will also be offering an expedited hiring program which will award qualified recipients to receive an additional \$50 when they complete their paperwork and training in the same day.

NOTICE

ERRORS: Each advertiser is requested to check their advertisement the first time it appears. This paper will not be responsible for more than one corrected insertion, nor will be liable for any error in an advertisement to a greater extent than the cost of the space occupied by the item in the advertisement.

Trading Post Consignment Shop to permanently close

AGAWAM – After many decades, the Trading Post Consignment Shop located at the First Baptist Church of Agawam, 760 Main Street, Agawam, will be permanently closing its doors sometime later this fall.

We will be opening on Wednesday, Aug. 18, with an ongoing 50% off, everything must go, sale. Please stop in every Wednesday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. to shop our unique inventory of clothing, shoes, handbags, jewelry, books, games, toys, various household and gift items and more. Start the school year off right with

one our new backpacks or other items for your college dorm room. Also for sale, Halloween costumes and fall décor.

Unfortunately, as we look to clear out existing inventory, we will no longer support consignment activity or accept any donated items.

We would like to thank everyone who has shopped with us over the years in support of our church.

For future news and information, please visit our The Trading Post Consignment Shop Facebook page or follow us on Instagram @fbctradingpost.

Hazardous Waste Collection Day set for Saturday, Sept. 11

AGAWAM – The Agawam Department of Public Works is planning to hold its annual Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day on Saturday, Sept. 11 at the DPW Annex, 1000 Suffield Street from 9 a.m. to 12 noon.

This event is free to Agawam residents, but pre-registration is required. Appointments may be scheduled by calling the DPW at 821-0600 ext.0 or 821-0624 beginning Monday, Aug. 16.

Participants should remain in their vehicle and place all waste in the trunk,

rear cargo area, or truck bed.

This program offers residents a safe, economical way to dispose of household items that are flammable, reactive, corrosive or toxic. Solvents, pesticides, caustic cleaners, and oil-based paints are some examples of the different types of items that will be accepted. Latex paint will not be accepted at this event.

For a more detailed list of acceptable materials visit the town website at www.agawam.ma.us.

YMCA holding fitness jamboree

WESTFIELD – YMCA of Greater Westfield is hosting a Summer Fitness Jamboree on Saturday, Aug. 14 on the Westfield Town Green. The YMCA knows how difficult it's been for individuals to get back into a healthy workout routine during this past year. We are excited to reach out to the community and offer free fitness classes to help people get back on track. You can start your Saturday with Gentle Yoga at 10 a.m. with Heidi Taberman- bring your own mat, try a Strong Nation HITT class at 10:45 a.m. with Stephanie Sangiovanni, complete your workout with a Total Body Strength at 11:25 a.m. with Tony Casale then join the Zumba party at

11:50 a.m. with Kait Casale. Feel free to stop by and try one class or stay for all the classes. Free raffle ticket for those in attendance with a chance to win a 3-month Y membership and other local merchant give away. In case of inclement weather, all classes will be held that day at the YMCA.

With a mission centered on balance, the Y strives to be a leading voice on health and well-being for our community by providing resources so that all people, can achieve greater health and well-being in spirit, mind and body. For more information, contact Cindy Agan, Health & Wellness Director, (413) 568-8631 or email: cagan@westfieldymca.org.

Applications now available for Massachusetts Building at the Big E

SPRINGFIELD – Massachusetts businesses and organizations are welcome to apply and exhibit at one day events during the Eastern States Exposition including:

- Military Appreciation Day – Sept. 17
- Massachusetts Day – Sept. 23
- Harvest New England Day – Oct. 1

The Eastern States Exposition (The Big E) this year is September 17 – October 3, 2021. The 17 day Big E in West Springfield annually attracts over 1.6 million visitors. The Massachusetts Building located on the Avenue of States provides Bay State businesses, non-profits, and other entities a platform to showcase their services

and products for sample and sale.

All food and beverage products, hard goods and other products or services must be local. Food and fiber products must be grown, produced, or manufactured in Massachusetts, and commercially available year-round.

All three single day exhibitor guidelines and applications are here: www.mass.gov/massachusetts-state-exposition-building-0. The application deadline is Aug. 6.

Questions: Military Day and Massachusetts Day: Phu.Mai@mass.gov. Harvest New England Day: Bonita.Oehlke@mass.gov.

Revolutionary War subject of ‘Applause’ opener

The Applause Series begins its 18th season with eyewitness account of the American Revolution as experienced by a colonial housewife and family

AGAWAM – The 18th season of the Agawam Cultural Council’s popular Applause Series gets off to a virtual start on Friday, Sept. 10 with the presentation of Abigail Whitney and Family: Eyewitness to the Events of April 19, 1775. The prerecorded performance will be broadcast on the Town of Agawam’s public access channel (Agawam TV15) at 7 p.m. and streamed from the “Watch” button on www.agawammedia.tv for those residing outside of Agawam. This performance is also being shown on the Town of Southwick’s TV15 at 7 p.m. and streamed from the “Watch Channel 15” button on www.southwickma.org/channel-15-public-access. Those who wish to watch on a smart device at a different time should email r.kadis@comcast.net for a link to the performance on the Agawam Cultural Council YouTube channel.

Early in the morning of April 19, 1775—the beginning of the American Revolution—British soldiers marched past the Whitney

homestead on the Bay Road in Concord, Massachusetts. They later returned to search the Whitney house for ammunition and supplies, while Abigail anxiously worried about her husband Samuel, who had joined fellow patriots at Concord’s North Bridge. She was frightened and concerned for her missing teenage son and survived a dangerous trip with her youngest children to escape the British. Learn about these firsthand experiences: why the soldiers searched her home; and what the outcome was for her family, the town of Concord, and the nation.

Gail C. Hamel, M.Ed. has been teaching living history for over twenty-five years. Based on primary sources, and the real-life experiences of Abigail Whitney and her family, Hamel developed a persona portraying colonial housewife Abigail Whitney in order to educate audiences of all ages. She is a Licensed Tour Guide for the town of Concord, Massachusetts, and has participated in numerous reenactments with the Lexington Historical Society, Minute Man National Historical Park, and Lincoln Minute Men.

Production sponsor of Abigail Whitney and Family: Eyewitness to the Events of April 19, 1775 is Way Finders, Inc.. The Agawam Cultural Council would also like to

thank bankESB, Elaine Carlson, OMG, Inc., the Southwick Cultural Council, Anthony Suffriti, and Westfield Bank for their generous support as Applause Series season sponsors.

In lieu of the in-person free will donations the Agawam Cultural Council (ACC) normally accepts at the conclusion of all its events, (which support fully 40% of the cost of each performance), the council asks viewers to consider making an online donation to support efforts to “Give Back to the Community” by visiting the ACC web site www.agawamcc.org and clicking on the green “Donate” button. A check in any amount, payable to the Agawam Cultural Council, may also be sent to: Agawam Cultural Council, Town Hall, 36 Main Street, Agawam MA 01001.

For more information on the activities and virtual offerings of the Agawam Cultural Council, please visit their web site, www.agawamcc.org. The Agawam Cultural Council is an all-volunteer local partner of the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency, and is funded, in part, by the MCC. The ACC is charged with bringing engaging, entertaining, and educational events and opportunities in the arts, humanities, and sciences, to children and adults from Agawam and the surrounding communities.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

The 18th season of the Agawam Cultural Council’s Applause Series begins with a virtual presentation of Abigail Whitney and Family: Eyewitness to the Events of April 19, 1775 to be broadcast on Friday, Sept. 10 on the Towns of Agawam’s and Southwick’s public access channels and streamed at 7 p.m.



Dakin Humane Society presents second annual pet photo contest

Top vote-getting pet photos to be featured in 2022 calendar

SPRINGFIELD – Dakin Humane Society’s 2022 Pet Photo Contest is currently underway, and the organization is accepting pet photos for its 2022 wall calendar. Photos can be uploaded for a \$5 fee and posted online, where they will be displayed. Viewers can vote for their favorite photos by purchasing a pack of five votes for \$5. The pet with the highest number of votes will be featured on the calendar cover, with the next 12 highest vote-getters displayed on monthly pages.

To submit your pet’s photo, or to participate in the voting, please visit <https://www.gogophotocontest.com/dakinhumanesociety>

The deadline to submit photos for the contest is Aug. 31 and voting for those photos will end on Sept. 12.

The annual Pet Photo Contest and Pet Calendar raise essential funds that support Dakin’s programs and services, including accessible veterinary services like spay/neuter surgery, pet food aid, adoption and more. These services are designed to help keep people and pets together.

Participants are asked to submit high-quality photos of their pet, then share the entry with friends and family to collect votes for that pet’s photo. People can also reserve a special day on the calendar to feature their pet’s photo in honor of their birthday, adoption anniversary, or any other reason for a \$15 donation. Once a day has been reserved, it will no longer be available.

The calendar will cost \$25 and can be pre-ordered by visiting <https://www.gogophotocontest.com/dakinhumanesociety>. Pre-ordering will help ensure that enough calendars will be available for all who want to have them.

Dakin Humane Society delivers effective, innovative services that improve the lives of animals in need and the people who care about them. In a typical year, the organization shelters, treats and fosters more than 20,000 animals and has performed over 100,000 spay/neuter surgeries since 2009, making it New England’s largest spay/neuter provider. Dakin is a local non-profit organization that relies solely on contributions from individuals and businesses that care about animals to bring its services to the community. For more information, or to make a gift, please visit www.dakinhumane.org.

Faith on Fire rally set to return on Friday, Sept. 10

AGAWAM – You are cordially invited to the annual Faith on Fire Catholic Charismatic Rally that will be held on the grounds of Sacred Heart Parish (in the Church if it rains) at 1065 Springfield Street in Feeding Hills, Ma. On Sept. 10 at 6 p.m. The rally is sponsored by the Diocese of Springfield’s Catholic Charismatic Renewal (CCR) and the Hampden West Deanery. The evening will consist of three Praise and Worship Music Ministries, Eucharistic Procession led by Bishop William Byrne, Reconciliation, opportunity for extra prayer under the prayer tent by several Prayer Teams and

prayers for healing with the Laying of the Hands. The speakers are Bishop William Byrne, Fr. Valentine Nworah, Sister Deirdre Byrne POSC and a lay witness speaker to inspire you. The Faith on Fire Committee, Saint Martha’s Guild and the Agawam Knights of Columbus will provide food for purchase. Please bring a lawn chair and or blankets for comfortable seating. God promised that “for where two or more are gathered I am there among you”. Please contact Sacred Heart Parish’s Pastoral Minister/Faith on Fire Coordinator Deb Brian-cesco at 786.8200 ext. 3 with any questions.

Junior high announces orientation schedule

AGAWAM – The Agawam Junior High School faculty and administration cordially invite you to attend our “Seventh Grade/New eighth Grade Student Orientation Night” on Monday, Aug. 30 from 6 to 7 p.m. in the junior high auditorium. “Orientation Night” is open to all seventh grade students, new eighth grade students, and their parents/guardians.

Prior to the orientation meeting, we will have our MAZE DAYS journey from 4 to 6 p.m. in the cafeteria. These are flexible times and you are not required to attend the entire time. During the MAZE, you will receive and complete important paperwork, sign up for school activities and clubs and get more information regarding particular programs offered at the junior high school. In addition, our PTO will also be on hand to provide information on upcoming events and activities being offered to the students, as well as get your input and ideas you’d like shared with the school and student body. After completing the MAZE DAYS paperwork, students will be provided their Homeroom (first period)/TEAM assignments for the upcoming school year. The process should not take

more than 45 minutes to complete and, if you plan ahead, you will be able to download the packet off of our website (www.agawamed.org), complete it at home and simply turn it in just before going into the Student Orientation meeting at 6 p.m..

MAZE DAYS for returning eighth grade students will be held Tuesday, Aug. 31 from 4 to 6 p.m. in the cafeteria, and there will be no parent orientation. Any seventh or new eighth grade family (not returning eighth grade students) that is not able to attend on their scheduled date is welcomed to attend on this date.



Public Safety ARREST LOG

The Agawam Police Department responded to 794 calls for service from Aug. 2 to Aug. 8 and recorded the following arrests. No arrests in the public log have

been omitted. All suspects are innocent until proven guilty.

No arrests were record in Agawam during the past week.

Eucharistic Adoration at St. John’s

AGAWAM – All are welcome and invited to join us at St. John the Evangelist Church, 833 Main Street, for Eucharistic Adoration, Wednesdays, 12 noon to 5:45 p.m. with

Holy Mass at 6:00 p.m.

Come and spend some time in quiet prayer with our Lord Jesus Christ, present in the Eucharist.

Opinion

Guest Column

August 1 to August 15

By John Grimaldi and David Bruce Smith

On August 3, 1958, USS Nautilus, the world's inaugural nuclear-powered submarine, turned into the first seagoing vessel to reach the North Pole from Point Barrow, Alaska, to Iceland.

HISTORY MATTERS

According to History.com, "Much larger than the diesel-electric submarines that preceded it, the Nautilus stretched 319 feet and displaced 3,180 tons. It could remain submerged for almost unlimited periods because its atomic engine needed no air and only a very small quantity of nuclear fuel. The uranium-powered nuclear reactor produced steam that drove propulsion turbines, allowing the Nautilus to travel underwater at speeds in excess of 20 knots."

In those days, readings that exceeded 85 degrees north of the equator, along the 85th parallel—sometimes, became messy; to counter that condition, Sperry Rand built a special gyrocompass to stabilize the risk.

For more information, the Grateful American Book Prize recommends "The Ice Diaries: The True Story of One of Mankind's Greatest Adventures" by Captain William R. Anderson, the first skipper of the Nautilus.

Sonia Sotomayor

On Aug. 9, 2009, Sonia Sotomayor became the first Hispanic to serve on the U.S. Supreme Court. She was appointed by President Barack Obama. Eighteen years earlier, President George H.W. Bush's nomination had propelled her to the U.S. District Court of the Southern District of New York; in 1997, she was elevated to the Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit.

As a child growing up in the projects, Sotomayor was galvanized by television's Perry Mason, to study law; in 1979, she received her J.D. from Yale Law School.

Justice Sotomayor won the Grateful American Book Prize in 2019 for her memoir, "The Beloved World of Sonia Sotomayor." One of the co-founders of the Prize, said at the time, "it's a compelling life-lesson for America's adolescents. It also embodies the essence of the Prize, which is to encourage seventh to ninth graders to read historical fiction and nonfiction."

Social Security

On Aug. 14, 1935, President Franklin Delano Roosevelt signed the Social Security Act, into law, and suddenly, millions of retirees had a safety net of income.

When Roosevelt became president in 1933, the country was thrashing about with great unemployment, poverty, and mass desperation. He devised his "New Deal," to help those, in particular, who needed assistance.

The Works Progress Administration and the Civilian Conservation Corps, in contrast, provided more vigorous Americans with access to employment opportunities.

For more information about the Great Depression, the Grateful American Book Prize recommends Murray N. Rothbard's "America's Great Depression."

History Matters is a biweekly feature courtesy of The Grateful American Book Prize, which is given to children's books that emphasize the importance of American history.

Shortage of commercial pilots...



Letters to the Editor

CPA vote will help fixed-income seniors

Dear Editor,

The Agawam City Council voted, with 6 yes, 4 no and 1 absent, to support TR-2021-43 resolution to petition state legislators to sponsor legislation that permits community preservation act (CPA) funds for affordable housing to be used by seniors on a fixed income and low-income residents for home maintenance and repairs.

I would like to thank Councilors Dino Mercadante and Antony Suffriti, who co-sponsored my resolution, and also Council President Christopher Johnson, Council Vice-President Cecilia Calabrese, and Councilor Mario Tedeschi for supporting this resolution. I also thank Mayor William Sa-

PELLI who signed the approval of this legislation.

We currently have in all CPA accounts \$3,713,960.63 and another \$723,218.00 coming to us for fiscal year 2022 for a total of \$4,437,178.00. Out of this money we have in the affordable fund account we have already \$883,360.016 and \$72,321.00 for the fiscal year 2022 for a total \$955,681.00. For the last twenty years, seniors and low-income home owners have been paying a surcharge and have not been able to apply for CPA community housing funds or repairs to a privately owned residence based on state law. That is why with this resolution we are asking State Senator John Velis and State Repre-

sentative Nicholas Boldyga to enact special legislation that permits the state a to amend the law and assist fixed income seniors and low-income home residents during these difficult economic times.

I strongly, believe along with my fellow councilors who voted to support this resolution, that this is the right thing to do.

State Senator John Velis's Chief of Staff Katie Verra has already had a meeting with Senate Counsel and they are working on this issue. State Representative Nicholas Boldyga has emailed me and he is already to work with us on this. I would like to thank them and their staff for their support.

George Bitzas

Trustees appreciate community support

Dear Editor:

The Board of Trustees at the Captain Charles Leonard House would like to extend their sincere thanks to Agawam's Community Preservation Act Committee for their recent unanimous decision to fund a Needs Assessment and

Historic Renovation Plan for the Captain Charles Leonard House and for the City Council's support in appropriating the funding.

This is the first step of many that will lead the way to ensure the preservation of this promi-

nent historic structure so that future generations of the greater Agawam community can continue to appreciate and enjoy the House.

Trustees of the Captain Charles Leonard House

Guest Column

Concrete failures in Florida hit close to home

By State Sen. Anne Gobi and State Rep. Brian Ashe

The sudden collapse of the Champlain Towers condominium in Surfside, Florida recently has left more than 150 people unaccounted for, 16 dead, and countless affected at the time of this writing. Structural problems first noted during a 2018 inspection are being scrutinized as a potential cause for the destruction, but at this time the focus has remained on clearing the rubble and identifying both victims and survivors, although that has officially ended. The investigation into the collapse is likely to take months and may find no single definitive cause.

As we've watched the situation unfold, and more information about the available warning

signs has come to light, we are reminded of the concrete infrastructure failures that remain in place here in the northeast, where thousands of homes are deteriorating as a result of a rare iron sulfide mineral, pyrrhotite, in the concrete aggregate. When exposed to water and oxygen the mineral expands, causing the concrete to crack in a web pattern until it degrades and fails. While the mineral is rare it is estimated that as many as 2,000 homes in central and Western Massachusetts have been built with this material, and Connecticut has documented and started the repair process on more than 1,600 affected homes dating back to last year.

Massachusetts currently has a foundation testing reimbursement program in place, refund-

ing visual and core sample inspections by licensed engineers, but no mechanism for funding the actual repairs necessary to keep these homes livable. The most proven solution currently to remedy the problem is to lift the home off of the existing foundation and replace it with an unaffected one: at a cost of \$150,000 to \$250,000 per house.

The Champlain Towers collapse was an issue that could have been remediated if the necessary funds were dedicated and repairs made. The structural problems identified in 2018 went unresolved and unchecked until they reached a literal breaking point, a deadly occurrence that it is impossible to put a price tag on in hindsight. In this case,

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Opinion

Guest Column

I ran to the door in an attempt to answer the phone before the call went to voicemail. I was unsuccessful, and no legible message was left. Back to the yard work and the 18 things I wanted to get done today: finish mulching, dig up the dead apple tree, cut back borer ridden iris leaves, trim the edge of the garden that the lawn mower can't reach...so on and so forth.

Admittedly the garden, the yard, really all of it in it's entirety, is a mess. I can't honestly blame it on a week away. It was a mess even before I left. I'm really not sure what went wrong this summer. Perhaps all of the rain sent me inside and I stayed there too long, wrapped up in an indoor project. Sometimes it's just hard to keep track of everything and even harder to keep on top of it all.

When I pull in the driveway and see the unkemptness of the yard an 80s rock song



ROBERTA MCQUAID TURLEY
PUBLICATIONS
COLUMNIST

stirs me back to my teenage days. "Welcome to the Jungle," is the perfect way to describe it. I laugh in the irony of me telling anyone how to keep their garden looking it's best. Ha. Which brings me to the unanswered telephone call. Just about dinner time the same number appeared on caller ID. It was my friend and former coworker, Mary, who I have not seen in probably six or seven years. She just so happened to be riding around town with another coworker of mine earlier in the day and wanted to pay me a visit. They wanted to see my gardens. I am in no way a proud person, but I can sincerely thank the Lord Almighty for the fact that I was outside and not able to reach the phone, not able to show them all my weeds and unfinished garden dreams....

If they were to visit now, after a day's

work, I guess it would be okay. I did finish mulching (just how long can someone leave mulch on a tarp on the lawn with out it killing the grass, anyway?) and the irises in the perennial garden are nice and tidy (although the mass planting near the garden shed needs serious help). The edge of the perennial garden was trimmed and all of the Ox-eye daisy that self-sowed in the bed were removed. But I still can't bear to cut back spent purple coneflowers or the Liatris spikes because the birds like the seeds.

Honestly, will I ever have a picture-perfect yard? Likely not. I do have aspirations but it's doubtful in my present state that I will ever achieve such a lofty goal. I think part of the problem is that I tread lightly. Rarely do I spray for bugs even with natural remedies and I've never used an herbicide in my life. There isn't an ounce of me that's heavy-handed, either, that's probably where the jungle part comes in. It's hard for me to re-

move the anise hyssop, black-eyed Susan or catnip plants even though they don't belong where they popped up, say in the raspberry patch, the vegetable garden or the walkways of the raised beds. I figure if the bees like them, and boy do they ever, they can stay and I'll work around them. Would my friends understand that? Perhaps.

And regardless of the weeds or whatever other malady that equates to a jungle-like appearance, I still have some flowers in a vase on the table, some produce in the freezer and some jelly on the shelf, all from my less than perfect yard.

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For the last 28 years, she has held the position of staff horticulturalist at Old Sturbridge Village. She enjoys growing food as well as flowers. Have a question for her? Email it to ekenedy@turley.com with "Gardening Question" in the subject line.

CONCRETE | from page 4

they had one however: \$16.2 million for the total repair and restoration at a cost to homeowners ranging from \$80,000 for a one-bedroom unit to more than \$300,000 for the penthouse suite. High costs, of course, particularly for individuals who had purchased the units without knowing the underlying structural issues at hand or the devastation that might occur if left unchecked.

Much like the process with pyrrhotite this was a slow-moving disaster where the natural elements exposed issues in the building's construction until the materials inevitably failed. While the science surrounding the type of decay is different, the outcome is the same. The concrete deteriorates, people are displaced, and lives are changed forever.

With nearly \$5 billion in American Rescue Plan Act stimulus funding available to the state we are in a unique position where we may be able to address monetary shortfalls in rapid fashion, and direct funding towards projects that yield immediate dividends to our constituents. Set into a fund

to be appropriated by the legislature, this money could become available in the near future and make an enormous impact in our communities.

Given this influx of funding it is imperative that we look at problems effecting homeowners that haven't been addressed, and we feel that the deteriorating homes in our state demand attention. We should not shy away from acting on this issue because of the price tag, the large upfront cost of each individual repair, particularly at a time when the state is awash with cash.

Instead of continuing to debate the merits of spending the money to help affected families, discussing who should be responsible for footing the bill after the courts have ruled that the neither the contractors, insurance companies, nor bankrupt concrete supplier can be held liable, we can dedicate money from this pool of federal funding to help them directly. This is not an unheard of thought; as mentioned before, the state of Connecticut has established a reimbursement program for the exact same issue, from the same supplier and led by spending over \$120 million for repairs. It simply requires attention and ac-

tion from the leaders in our state, at a time where inaction would be immoral.

House and Senate leaders plan to hold public hearings and gather input on how to spend the funding in the future, and we urge our colleagues to advocate for these families in Massachusetts who have been dealt a hand directly countering the American dream of owning a home that you can call your own. These people did everything right, followed every step they needed to along the path towards home ownership which many consider their primary asset

in life. Failure to come to their aid would be akin to letting the results of a natural disaster impact an area without state or federal help; a tornado path that tears up Main Street and is never repaired while home values plummet and the town suffers.

By appropriating this money for reimbursement in the future we allow these individuals to move forward, safely, toward remediating their homes and give them the stability they need without waiting for a tragic collapse in our own state to spur action.

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NOTE EARLY DEADLINES:
August 26 issue deadline is **Friday, August 20.**
September 2 issue deadline is **Friday, August 27.**

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CLUES ACROSS
1. Calls balls and strikes
4. Turkish officer
9. Repaired shoe
14. Grass genus
15. Small, sealed vial
16. Primp
17. Immoral act
18. A tool to communicate
20. Crumbles away
22. Egg-like
23. Districts (abbr.)
24. Dressed
28. Small island (British)
29. Dialect of Chinese
30. Force unit
31. Borderlines
33. Norse gods
37. Morning
38. Fiddler crabs
39. Tell a story
41. Consumed
42. Atomic #58
43. About old Norse poems
44. Fencing swords

46. One-time Tigers third baseman
49. Southpaw (abbr.)
50. Neither
51. Conversations
55. Distinctive manner or pronunciation
58. Cyprinids
59. Appropriate to a festival
60. Pearl Jam frontman
64. Wrath
65. Italian city
66. A way to get there
67. A nose or snout
68. German seaport
69. A horse for riding
70. Airline representative (abbr.)

CLUES DOWN
1. Unhappy
2. Silk fabric
3. Unbroken view of a region
4. Middle Eastern
5. ___ and Andy, TV show
6. Central processing unit
7. Department of Housing and Urban Development
8. Midcentury newspaper columnist
9. Weapon
10. Delivered a speech
11. Probably going to happen
12. Midway between northeast and east
13. Danish krone
19. Synthetic resin (abbr.)
21. Fall slowly in drops
24. Bestow an honor upon
25. Childishly silly
26. Related on the mother's side
27. Populations of related plants
31. Coherent
32. Tribe of ancient Britons
34. Financial firm Goldman ___
35. Stephen King thriller
36. Went in again
40. Commercial
41. Poking holes in the ground
45. Prisoners of war
47. Pursued pleasure
48. "Seinfeld" character
52. Body of water
53. Hovering vehicle (abbr.)
54. People who utilize
56. Nostrils
57. Inner mass of some fungi
59. Honor lavishly
60. Midway between east and southeast
61. Turn down
62. Small round mark
63. Expected at a certain time

CROSSWORD SOLUTION ON PAGE 9



A large crowd showed up on Wednesday, July 28 for the Island Castaways performance.



The Agawam Rotary Club served food and concessions in the pavilion for those attending the concert.



Bob and Amanda Mattarazzo enjoy the concert.



Jesse Clauson meets up with Charles Alvanos and his dog Leo at the town concert.



From left; friends Paulette Rochford and Rachel Thomas watch the concert together.



Back: Monika Moccio, Becky Costa. Front: Corey Moccio, Shawn and Nolan Costa all set up on the School Street Park field for the Summer Fest concert.

Weather finally cooperates

AGAWAM – On July 28, the Agawam Parks and Recreation Department was able to host one of its concerts in the Summer Concert Series. The events, held at School Street Park, have always been very popular and a few were held last year during the pandemic thanks to the ability to social distance. The full series was brought back this summer, but a few events were cancelled due to excessive rain and thunderstorms that would occur in the first few Wednesdays in July.

PHOTOS BY SHELBY MACRI



The Agawam Veteran's Council held a booth where people could get multiple things to enjoy the concert, like flags, balloons, and cotton candy.

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USDA INSP. FROZEN BABY BACK PORK RIBS.....	\$3 ²⁹ lb	USDA INSP. FRESH BONELESS BEEF STEAKHOUSE TIPS	\$7 ⁹⁷ lb	USDA INSP. FRESH CHICKEN BREAST BONE-IN 10 LB BAG	\$1 ²⁹ lb
USDA INSP. FRESH COUNTRY STYLE PORK RIBS.....	\$1 ⁷⁷ lb	USDA INSP. FRESH BONELESS BEEF STEAKHOUSE TIPS	\$7 ⁹⁷ lb	USDA INSP. FROZEN GROUND TURKEY or GROUND CHICKEN TRAY PAK ...	\$1 ⁹⁹ lb
SLICED IN OUR DELI		USDA INSP. FRESH BONELESS BEEF STEAKHOUSE TIPS		USDA INSP. FROZEN GROUND TURKEY or GROUND CHICKEN TRAY PAK ...	\$1 ⁹⁹ lb
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USDA INSP. STORE MADE TERIYAKI MARINATED SKIRT STEAKS.....	\$7 ⁹⁹ lb	USDA INSP. FRESH BONELESS BEEF STEAKHOUSE TIPS	\$7 ⁹⁷ lb	USDA INSP. FROZEN PAN FRIED BREADED SHRIMP	\$1 ⁹⁹ lb
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SPORTS

SOCCKER

Lusitano Women fall in PVSSL final

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

SPRINGFIELD – Had the Pioneer Valley Summer Soccer League women’s championship match ended at halftime, Hannah Kolodziej most likely would’ve been selected as the M.V.P. award winner, which is named in honor of her grandfather, William.

Kolodziej scored the only goal of the opening half giving the third-seeded Lusitano Women a 1-0 halftime lead over the top-seeded Westside Sports Shop, who was a first-year member of the prestigious summer soccer league.

The undefeated Westside Sports Shop (14-0), which is also known as Andres, scored the tying goal four minutes into the second half. The match remained tied until the 69th minute when Nina Gamelli scored the go-ahead goal for Westside Sports Shop, which took home the championship trophy with a 2-1 victory on a fall like evening at Abdow Field located on the A.I.C. on July 30.

“It’s very special to be a part of something that my grandfather started many years ago,” Kolodziej said. “I also played for the Lusitano Women, which won the championship title in 2019. We really wanted to win another championship tonight, but West Side is a talented soccer team.”

The PVSSL, which was founded by William and Jackie Kolodziej, celebrated its 38th anniversary this summer.

William Kolodziej, who passed away in 2019, was an outstanding



Reese Carey clears the ball away.



Mary Silva reacts to a ball kicked her way.



Julia Farnham starts to dribble up the field.

PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM

three-sport athlete at A.I.C. in the 1960’s.

When the Kolodziej’s first started the summer soccer league, the finals were held on a grass field where the AIC baseball field is currently located. The finals were then moved to historic Lusitano Stadium in Ludlow for many years. The finals were held on A.I.C.’s brand new turf field this year because of a schedule conflict.

“Since I’ve been alive, the summer league finals have always been held at Lusitano Stadium,” Hannah Kolodziej said. “I really

didn’t know how it would be playing in the finals at this field this year, but this is a very nice venue.

Hannah’s parent’s, Chris & Diane, have done an outstanding job as PVSSL co-commissioners during the past couple of years.

The Lusitano Women (8-4-2), who play their regular season home matches at Lusitano Stadium, were able to win the summer league championship title in 2014, 2016, and 2019.

Hannah Kolodziej, who was a member of the 2019 championship team, graduated from East Longmeadow High School.

She began her collegiate soccer career at Merrimack College, which competes at the Division 1 level, but decided to transfer. She’ll be a member of the Springfield College women’s soccer team, which is coached by John Gibson.

“I loved being a member of the Merrimack women’s soccer team,” she said. “I was undecided on my major when I first went to Merrimack a couple of years ago, but I now want to be a PA (Physician Assistant). They don’t offer that as a major at Merrimack, but Springfield College does have it.

My grandmother (Jackie) is very happy that I’ll be playing soccer at Springfield College because it’s only a 15-minute drive from her house in Ludlow.

Hannah’s grandmother watched her play in the PVSSL women’s championship match, along with her parents, her aunt, Carolyn, and her uncle Greg, who’s the longtime boys’ varsity soccer coach at Ludlow High School.

Several other members of the Lusitano Women are area athletes, including: Kiley Baran

LUSITANO | page 8

RACING

Buffone, other locals excel at Monadnock Speedway

Winchester, NH – Five of six feature winners fell into a familiar pattern Saturday night at Monadnock Speedway with several repeat winners. Still the racing was typical for a hot August night.

The feature event of the program was a 100-lap race for the New Hampshire Short Track Racing Association (NHSTRA) Modifieds. In the qualifying time trials, Russ Hersey of Swanzey, NH, set the fast time. The redraw to set the lineup put eighth fast-

er driver, Brad Zahensky of Hopkinton, NH, on the pole. When the green dropped, Zahensky led the field with Ben Byrne second. Byrne took over the top spot on lap fourteen moving Zahensky to second. By lap 32, the lead cars were trying to negotiate lapped traffic. Andy Major of Brookfield, MA, spun between turns three and four blocking the upper lanes. The lap traffic bumped Byrne out his preferred line and into the disabled Major racer. Byrne’s night was over. Za-

hensky resumed the lead on the restart with Todd Patnode next. The next thirty-one laps it was Zahensky in the spotlight. On lap 63, Patnode made his move, taking over the lead. The pace of the race changed after that with five cautions slowing the field before the checkers fell.

Patnode collected his fourth win of the year. Russ Hersey posted second and Joe Kendall of Winchendon, MA, had a strong finish for third.

In the preliminary events,

there were some last lap fireworks in the Late Model Sportsman 25-lapper. After Kevin Vaudrien of Brattleboro, VT, led the first eight laps, Justin Littlewood of Orange, MA, moved in front with Vaudrien slowly sliding back in the field before spinning out on lap 17 to bring out a caution. On the restart it was Littlewood, Ricky Bly of Sunapee, NH, and Aaron Fellows from Croydon, NH, tight on his bumper. In the closing laps the pursuers got by Littlewood and on the final lap got into a shoving match with Bly spinning. Littlewood raced by them taking his third win of the year. Austin Brehio, Concord, NH, was second and point leader, Cam Curtis of Baltimore, VT, rolled into third.

The most benign race in the NHSTRA divisions was the 25-lap Mini Stock feature. A strong field of cars raced incident free from green to checkers. Kevin Clayton of Winchendon, MA, took the early lead before ceding the top spot to Fitzwilliam, NH, driver, Gordon Farnum. Farnum



Belchertown’s Chris Buffone picked up his fourth win of the season last Saturday.

SUBMITTED PHOTO

MONADNOCK | page 8

GOLF

PAC to hold benefit golf outing

LUDLOW – The Polish American Citizens’ Club of Ludlow will hold its annual golf outing Sunday, Aug. 29 at the Mill Valley Golf Links, Belchertown This will be a 11:30 a.m. single shotgun start. Play will be limited to 25 foursomes so sign up early.

This golf tournament is open to the public and woman are also encouraged to play. The cost of the event is still only \$90 per person which includes golf, cart, lunch on the course and are famous dinner and refreshments back at the club following the event. Hole in One contests on all Par 3 holes with a chance to WIN \$7500. Proceeds from this event are used to fund our annual Scholarship Awards. Sign up sheets are available at the club located at 355 East St. Ludlow. Deadline for signups is Aug. 20. For more information you may contact the club at 583-6385 or John Diotalevi 433-1901

Sports



Left, the Western Mass. Pioneers gather at Lusitano Stadium with the championship trophy. Right, longtime captain Maxi Viera holds the trophy. The former Ludlow High School girls soccer coach is moving and will be leaving the Pioneers.

Pioneers celebrate title

LUDLOW – The Western Mass. Pioneers traveled to Atlanta to take part in the USL-2 Eastern Conference Championships. The Pioneers defeated the West Chester United SC 1-0 to capture the

conference title. Two weeks ago, the Pioneers gathered once more at Lusitano Stadium to celebrate their victory, inviting the public to come see the trophy and meet the players.



Pioneers Head Coach Federico Molinari poses with his Conference Championship trophy with his two daughters.



Pioneers players Rodrigo Losada and Fede Gutierrez hold the trophy they earned three weeks ago.



Isabelle Larochelle looks for an open teammate.

LUSITANO ■ from page 7

(Granby), Jordan Bates (Chicopee), Reese Carey (South Hadley), Isabelle Larochelle (Holyoke), Mary Silva (Ludlow), Stephanie Goncalves (Ludlow), and Sydney Mercier (South Hadley).
Kolodziej gave the Lusitano Women a 1-0 lead in the middle of the first half by putting a shot into the left corner of the net.
“After I shot the ball, I actually didn’t even see it go into the net,” Kolodziej said. “I really wanted to score a goal for my grandfather in tonight’s game.”
Four minutes into the second half, Kaela Mochak sent a crossing pass into the box and Gamelli knocked the ball into the net tying the score.
West Side Sports took the lead for the first time during the 69th minute following a goal by Mochak, which was assisted by Emily Howard, who graduated from Minnechaug Regional. Mochak received the M.V.P. award following the match.
The Lusitano Women didn’t score another goal giving West Side Sports their first championship title.



PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM
Goalie Kiley Baran punts the ball away.

“All of us worked very hard this season and it feels very nice to win the championship game,” said Howard, who’ll be playing college soccer at the University of Hartford this fall. “We also played a close game against the Lusitano Women during the regular season.”
Several other former Minnechaug players were members of the West Side Sports team this summer. They are Mackenzie Howard, Katie Shea, Madison Sanborn, Rhiann Ryan, Chapin Jeannotte, and Gabby Williams.
“It was really a lot of fun being teammates with the other Minnechaug players again,” Emily Howard said. “We became a very close team during the course of the season.”
Another member of the West Side Sports team is Jocelyn Trajkovski, who’s from Ludlow.
Third-seeded Roots FC defeated fifth-seeded Springfield Progressive, 1-0, in the men’s championship match. The only goal of that match was scored on a header by Iain Ferreira, who graduated from Minnechaug in 2020, with 19 minutes remaining in the second half.

Valley Blue Sox make divisional round of playoffs

HOLYOKE – The second-seeded Valley Blue Sox are advancing to the NECBL Southern Division Semifinals after their 5-0 Wild Card shutout against the #7 Bristol Blues on Tuesday, Aug. 3.
The Blue Sox saw lights-out pitching from Grant Kipp, who started on the hill, to newcomer closer Ziv Gar of Molloy College. Nicholas Beutel (Lehigh) and Andrew Sears (Rhode Island College) also made appearances on the mound for Valley, not allowing Bristol to score a single run through nine innings at MacKenzie Stadium.
Cole Andrews of Miami claimed two

RBIs in the bottom of the fifth inning to put the Blue Sox on the board, and Michael Casaleggio from Palm Beach Atlantic added one RBI of his own off a sac fly to bring Brian Hart (Marist) home, making the score 3-0 heading into the sixth inning.
Steven Luttazi (UMass Amherst) added to Valley’s run total with an RBI single in the seventh inning, and Paul Franzoni (NJIT) kept the momentum going with another RBI infield single to extend their lead to 5-0, which was the final score.

BLUE SOX ■ page 9

MONADNOCK ■ from page 7

rolled into victory lane with his seventh win of the season. Point leader Louie Maher of Baldwinville, MA, was second. Ray King of Bellows Falls, VT, collected third.
Chris Buffone of Belchertown, MA, was disappointed with a third-place finish in the Street Stock division two weeks ago. He made up for it Saturday night with his fourth win of the season, out-running Team Wenzel. Finishing second was Tim Wenzel of Holyoke, MA, and point leader, Nate Wenzel of Granby, MA.
The Six Shooters ran their third and final event of the year. Travis Hollins of Milford, NH, hit the gas at the green flag and never looked back. Bennington, NH’s John Voorhees rolled into second with Paul Colburn of Charlestown, NH, nailing down third. In three races, Hollins sat in all three podium positions, good enough to secure the Championship crown.
Young Gun driver, “Fast” Eddie Petruskevicius of Rutland, MA, secured his eighth win of the year and “retired” to move on to another division. Teagan Edson had her best run of the year for second. Dominic Stafford from Millers Falls, MA, had a strong run for third.
This coming Saturday, Aug. 14, the Tri-Track Open Modifieds will unload for a 100-lap race. The NHSTRA regular divisions in the Advanced Auto Parts weekly series will share the program.
NHSTRA Modifieds: Todd Patnode,

Russell Hersey Jr, Joe Kendall, Cory Plummer, Brian Chapin, Tyler Leary, Kimberley Rivet, Stewart McCormack, Scott MacMichael, Geoff Rollins, Nathan Wenzel, Trevor Bleau, Steve Dickey, John Studley, Bradley Zahensky, Matthew Kimball, Bill Kimball, Eric LeClair, Ben Byrne, Andrew Major, Cole Littlewood
Street Stocks: Christopher Buffone, Timothy Wenzel, Nathan Wenzel, Jason Kozacka, Robert Hagar, Edward Brehio III, Mike Radzuik, Rupert Thompson, Jesse Emerson, Leighton Lutz, Hillary Renaud, Paul Smith, Keith Johnson
Late Model Sportsman: Justin Littlewood, Austin Brehio, Camdyn Curtis, Ryan Currier, Glen Brehio, Cole Littlewood, John Meany, Kevin Vaudrien, Daniel Comeau, Ronald LaPerche, Nancy Muni Ruot[, Rocky Smith, Aaron Fellows, Caleb Cashman, Dick Lamotte, (DQ) 28-Ricky Bly
Mini Stocks: Gordon Farnum, Louie Maher, Raymond King, Kevin Clayton, Kevin McKnight, Tim LeBlanc, Kevin Cormier, Jake Puchalski, Jeff Asselin, Jeff Heath, Matthew Lambert, William Chaffee, Josh Wright, Craig Chaffee, Michael Douglas, (DNS) Robert Kirker
Six Shooters: Travis Hollins, John Voorhees, 86-Paul Colburn, Micheal Yeaton, Chris Colburn, Chris Hadley, Brandon Mailhot, John Thibodeau
Young Guns: Edward Petruskevicius, Teagan Edson, Dominick Stafford, Edward Gomarlo, Zachary Zilinski, Leilei Daniels, Keegan LaMotte

SAPELLI ■ from page 1

the school committee to get things done.” Sapelli said that while the mayor’s office is what people see the most, but nothing can get done without the collaborative work within government. He said when he started campaigning years ago, his slogan was to unify local government and have civility, and he feels that he and his team has done that as he, the city council and the school committee has gotten a lot done. This includes dealing with and moving through COVID, doing the infrastructure, streets and sidewalks, properties in town and more. There is going to be more street construction on O’Brien’s Corner and the intersection there, there will be street and curb work in that area and the water replacements will continue. Street paving and replacements will be determined and the area and they will continue replacing streets that need it, Sapelli said there’s about 130 miles of streets in Agawam and if they don’t keep up with them and do a few each year it’ll get backlogged and out of control. “We’re in a good shape now because we have been doing a lot of street work the last four years,” said Sapelli. “No more playing catch up, and now everyone wants their street done.” People have noticed the work being done, and many people turned out the the campaign kickoff, they signed in at

the beginning and received a Sapelli Supporter sticker before going the crowd and getting change to greet the mayor. Sapelli gave a short speech, and from the top of his head speaking about the years he’s had as Mayor so far and that he’d like to continue the job, and continue the unified partnership he’s buildit with the city council, school committee, and other offices in the town’s government. “It’s been a gratifying experience because I think, I really believe; and I’m hearing it from the residents we’ve accomplished an awful lot,” Sapelli said. “A lot of people said ‘we really want you to run again’ and ‘we’ve seen a big change in Agawam’, ‘we think you’re doing a great job and we’d like to see you run again.’” He said most days as mayor are good and there’s an opportunity to solve problems. The pandemic allowed for a lot of problem solving and has added to his experience as well as the entirety of the local government, as the pandemic wasn’t something they had a playbook for. Sapelli said he received all of his needed signatures and will be returning them within the week to be officially certified as a mayoral candidate. Those interested in the political calendar can visit the town’s website and go to the clerk’s page for the calendar and voters information, go to <https://www.agawam.ma.us> for more information or call the town hall at 413-786-0400.

COUNCIL ■ from page 1

and limited resources since the COVID-19 pandemic, there has been an increased need to help those in low- or fixed-income situations to repair existing problems. CPA funds are used for historical preservation projects, affordable housing, and open space and recreation. Many years after the CPA was established by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, the laws were relaxed to allow for funds to be used on existing parks and open space projects. The amendment was aimed to help maintain parks and facilities that were originally funded by the CPA. Councilor Dino Mercadante said he supports sending the special legislation to the state. “I think it is a worthwhile endeavor,” said Mercadante. “There’s an awful lot of money in the housing that we have not used. It’s sitting there and we’re getting one percent from our citizens. We can find a way to help the people who really need it.” Councilor Paul Cavallo questioned the legality of giving public money to individual residents. Council President Christo-

pher Johnson suggested an amendment where money given to individual residents would be in the form of no-interest forgivable loans. He said the forgivable nature of the loan would be based on how long an individual remains in their home after receiving the loan. Bitzas second Johnson’s proposal. Johnson’s amendment would make the special legislation act like how low-income residents receive funds through the Community Development Block Grant program. Councilors Robert Rossi and Rosemary Sandlin both questioned whether or not the state legislature would support the amendment. “The CPA was not designed for this,” said Rossi. “You’re asking to put discretionary rules in there.” The amendment passed 6-4. The main resolution passed 6-4 as well. Bitzas, Johnson, Suffriti, Mercadante, Mario Tedeschi, and Cecilia Calabrese voted in favor while Sandlin, Cavallo, Rossi, and Gerry Smith voted against. The resolution will move to the state legislature for consideration.

BLUE SOX ■ from page 8

Due to the win, and the Danbury Westerners’ win over the Newport Gulls at Rogers Park, the Valley Blue Sox faced the Westerners at home on Wednesday, Aug. 4 at 6:35 p.m. for the Southern Division Semifinals. “I’m excited to get going and to play Danbury. Tonight was a testament to our pitchers, and I hope we continue this into the semifinals.” Said Travis Holt of Bulter. “Any win in the playoffs is a big win,” said Valley Head Coach Hez Randolph. “Bristol wanted it. They competed very well for a stretch in the regular season. It was a 0-0 ballgame heading into the fifth inning. We have to tip our hats to them for their effort tonight and in the regular season.” He continued. This win is “everything,” to Randolph, who is in his first year as the Blue Sox



head coach. “When you take a leap of faith into any profession, you have these doubts. You question yourself: Is it really worth it? Is it going to work out? Is it worth all of the sacrifices you need to be willing to make?” “There were times where I questioned: Am I really that good at this? This whole summer, in that way, has been really reassuring. I have so much more to work on, how to make this team win more games, score more runs, continue to push both myself and my team in the right direction to be successful. Tonight was a confidence booster for me to keep doing those things. I tell the umpires every game—I’m still learning, I’m learning every single day. Pedro and Woodsy [Blue Sox assistant coaches] do a great job of supporting me and making sure my head is on straight. I am very excited for what’s to come tomorrow and in the rest of the playoffs.” He continued.

VACCINATED ■ from page 1

of their children vaccinated, though there is not enough time now to have a teenager fully vaccinated before the school year begins. Petrucci emphasized the danger of the Delta Variant locally. “The Delta variant has been identified in Massachusetts,” she said. “And we can assume it is in Agawam. According to MDPH it has been identified in approximately 50% of the samples tested for the variant. Those vaccinated have a decreased chance of developing the Delta variant which is more virulent than other strains. Should those vaccinated become infected with the Delta variant, symptoms are usually mild or non-existent. Unlike unvaccinated, those who develop symptoms from the Delta variant

are more severe, resulting in hospitalization.” The Agawam Public Schools are currently not requiring students wear masks indoors in school, though a number of other school districts have already gone that route, including Springfield and Easthampton. Mayor William Sapelli has gone on record stating he is not inclined to bring back any mask mandates unless the state goes that route. Petrucci said vaccination can be received at four locations. The two CVS Pharmacies, one on Springfield Street and the other on Suffield Street, Walgreens on Springfield Street, and Stop & Shop in Feeding Hills Center. Vaccinations and appointments continue to be available with adequate supply throughout town.

Public Notices

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Hampden Division
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
(413)748-8600
Docket No. HD21P1438EA
Estate of:
Victor R. Bonavita
Date of Death:
5/22/21
INFORMAL PROBATE
PUBLICATION NOTICE**
To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner **Donna M. Pratte** of Wilbraham, MA, a Will has been admitted to informal probate.
Donna M. Pratte of Wilbraham, MA has been informally appointed as the Personal Representative of the

estate to serve **without** surety on the bond.
The estate is being administered under informal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but interested parties are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration. Interested parties are entitled to petition the Court to institute formal proceedings and to obtain orders terminating or restricting the powers of Personal Representatives

appointed under informal procedure. A copy of the Petition and Will, if any, can be obtained from the Petitioner. 08/12/2021
**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Hampden Probate and Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
(413)748-7758
Docket No. HD21C0171CA
In the matter of:
Amber Marie Couture
CITATION ON PETITION
TO CHANGE NAME
A Petition to Change Name of Adult has been filed by **Amber Marie Couture of Agawam, MA** requesting that the court enter a Decree changing their name to:**

**Amber Marie Freitag
IMPORTANT NOTICE**
Any person may appear for purposes of objecting to the petition by filing an appearance at: **Hampden Probate and Family Court before 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 08/31/2021.**
This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance if you object to this proceeding.
WITNESS, Hon. **Barbara M Hyland**, First Justice of this Court.
Date: August 03, 2021
Rosemary A Saccomani
Register of Probate
08/12/2021

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court**

**Hampden Probate and Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
Docket No. HD21D0646DR
Sierra M Kang vs.
Chris K Kang
DIVORCE SUMMONS
BY PUBLICATION
AND MAILING**
To the Defendant:
The Plaintiff has filed a Complaint for Divorce requesting that the Court grant a divorce for IRRETRIEVABLE BREAKDOWN.
The Complaint is on file at the Court.
An Automatic Restraining Order has been entered in this matter preventing you from taking any action which would negatively impact the current financial status of either party. SEE

Supplemental Probate Court Rule 411.
You are hereby summoned and required to serve upon: **Sierra M Kang
50 Harding Street
Agawam, MA 01001**
your answer, if any, on or before **10/29/2021**. If you fail to do so, the court will proceed to the hearing and adjudication of this action. You are also required to file a copy of your answer, if any, in the office of the Register of this Court
WITNESS, Hon. **Barbara M Hyland**, First Justice of this Court.
Date: August 2, 2021
Rosemary A. Saccomani
Register of Probate
08/12/2021

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Agawam Advertiser News

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One is a free, brief **Death Notice** listing the name of deceased, date of death and funeral date and place.

The other is a **Paid Obituary**, costing \$100, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice and may include a photograph. **Death Notices & Paid Obituaries** should be submitted through a funeral home to: obits@turley.com.

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3

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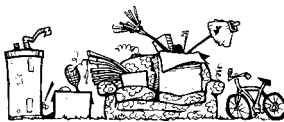
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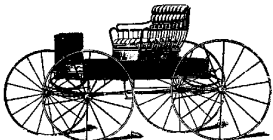
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29	Base Price \$30.50	30	Base Price \$31.00
31	Base Price \$31.50	32	Base Price \$32.00
33	Base Price \$32.50	34	Base Price \$33.00
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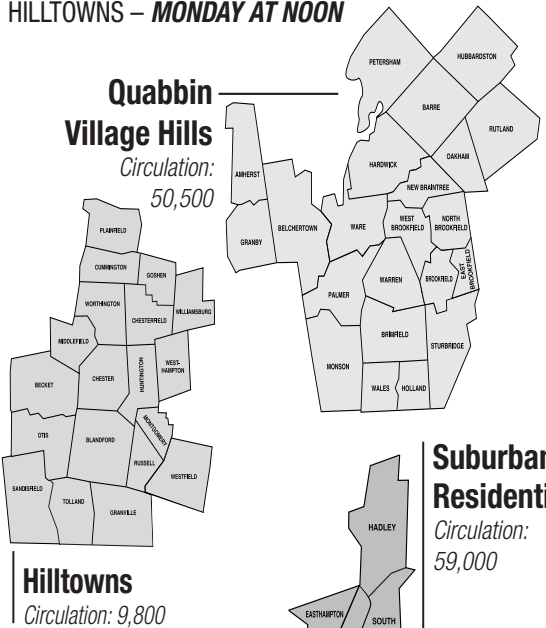
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Send Us Your Autumn Event Information

Turley Publications will print your Autumn event **FREE OF CHARGE** in our **Autumn Fest Supplement** which will be published **September 8, 2021.**

Total circulation of 85,000 reaching over 200,000 readers in the Pioneer Valley.

Deadline for Calendar submissions is August 16.

Community Autumn Events

Event Should Be Non-Profit & Open to the Public

FREE Calendar Listings Reaching over 200,000 Readers in the Pioneer Valley

Event Name _____

Date/Time _____

Location _____

Description _____

Cost _____

Contact name & phone number for more information _____

MAIL YOUR LISTING INFORMATION TO:

Turley Publications, Attn: Jamie Joslyn, 24 Water Street, Palmer, MA 01069
or email* them to: jamie@turley.com

***Be sure to indicate "Autumn Event" in the subject line of your email.**

Legislation filed to improve swimming safety

BOSTON - In an effort to increase public safety and awareness at state parks and beaches, Gov. Charlie Baker will file legislation today to increase fines for swimming outside designated waterfronts across the Commonwealth. The legislation, "An Act Relative to Enhanced Enforcement of Swimming Limitations," would increase the maximum fine to \$500 for entering or swimming in any waters on Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) property that are not designated for swimming. The legislation would provide an appropriate penalty for swimming in unsafe areas and deter park visitors from considering these dangerous activities.

"Swimming at undesignated waterfronts is dangerous and too often leads to tragic consequences, and this legislation is part of a comprehensive plan to discour-

age risky behavior and ensure the safety of visitors to our state parks and beaches," said Governor Charlie Baker. "While we encourage all to visit our beautiful coastal and inland beaches, we urge the public to exercise caution and not swim at any body of water that has not been designated for swimming by state or local authorities."

"From the Berkshires to Cape Cod, Massachusetts is home to many waterbodies and coastlines offering great opportunities for outdoor recreation; however, we have already seen far too many tragic accidental drownings occur already this year," said Lieutenant Governor Karyn Polito. "We look forward to working with our colleagues in the Legislature to move quickly on these important changes."

Under current law, penalties for violating DCR's rules and regulations vary de-

pending on whether a property was once part of the Metropolitan District Commission, with fines ranging from \$20 to \$200. The filed legislation establishes a uniform maximum fine of \$500 for entering or swimming in waters other than those designated for swimming by DCR.

At its many designated waterfronts throughout the state, DCR offers services like clearly marked swimming areas with ropes and buoys, lifeguards on-duty, and water quality testing. Undesignated waterfronts do not receive such services, and may also have hazardous features like murky water, steep slopes, and aquatic plant species, creating a potentially dangerous situation for swimmers.

DCR has been coordinating with the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs, the Massachusetts State Police and

the Massachusetts Environmental Police to implement new measures to enhance public safety and discourage swimming at undesignated waterfronts. DCR has produced and posted dozens of new swimming safety signs at DCR parks and beaches. These signs will be in multiple languages at select areas such as Houghton's Pond within the Blue Hills State Reservation in Canton. DCR has also increased outreach for the agency's Learn to Swim program, which offers free swimming lessons at 12 locations statewide for people of all ages.

Recently, DCR announced that it has increased lifeguard pay from \$17/hour, or \$18/hour for head guards, to \$20/hour and \$21/hour. Lifeguards who remain committed for the entire season with DCR will also receive a \$500 bonus at the end of the season.

Register now for golf tournament and help feed families

Due to the economic struggles of the pandemic, one in five households in Massachusetts with children is suffering from food insecurity. Feed the Kids is hoping to change that with its fourth annual charity golf tournament scheduled for Monday, Aug. 9, at the Springfield Country Club, 1375 Elm St., West Springfield.

There will also be an online auction that opens July 26 and runs until Aug 9. Proceeds from the events will go to organizations in the area working to ensure children do not go hungry including Pioneer Valley Powerpacks, No Kid Hungry and Square One.

"This tournament will give individuals and businesses the opportunity to participate in helping children across our region,"

said Dr. Frederick Kadushin, co-chair of Feed the Kids.

"You can register for a wonderful round of golf, become a sponsor, submit a donation or you can participate in our online auction, which will be open for two weeks before the event. All the money raised will go towards four incredibly beneficial organizations."

No Kid Hungry is a national organization that raises funds to support school breakfast programs, summer meals, after school meals and more for children throughout the country. The HPS Weekend Backpack Program and Pioneer Valley Powerpacks distribute bags of nutritious and easy-to-prepare meals to children at the end of each week that they can enjoy

over the weekend. Square One provides a range of family-friendly educational opportunities and support services.

"The past three tournaments have raised more than \$124,000 for Holyoke School Backpack Program, Pioneer Valley Powerpacks and No Kid Hungry and we are excited to be able to help support Square One this year as well," Kadushin said.

"We are grateful to those who have already stepped up as sponsors including AAA Northeast, Peoples Bank, Westfield Bank, Schwartz and Fentin, Aaron Posnik, Meyer Borthers Kalicka, Eden Rafferty, Robert Suprenant and Luke Heger. Opportunities for sponsorships are still available."

Check-in for the scramble format Feed the Kids Charity Golf Tournament on Aug.

9 will begin at 9 a.m., with a shotgun start at 11 a.m. The fee is \$165 per golfer or \$660 for a foursome, which includes greens fees, driving range, cart use, lunch, cocktail hour, dinner and a gift bag. There will also be prizes, a raffle and an online auction, which opens on July 26.

To make a cash donation, donate an item for the raffle or auction, learn more about sponsorship opportunities or register to golf or for the dinner, visit feedthekidsgolf.com.

About Feed the Kids

Feed the Kids is a local nonprofit group consisting of volunteers throughout the Pioneer Valley who are committed to ensuring that children in the region don't go hungry.

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